
A GUIDE FOR PRAYER

49th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America
June 20-24, 2021, Birmingham, AL

Pray that the Commissioners will have an ear only to the Word of Christ, as delivered in the Scriptures, as the rule for settling all substantial matters before the General Assembly (GA); that they will exercise prudence and good sense in all matters merely circumstantial; and that they will have the wisdom to so distinguish among the matters before the GA.

Pray also that the Commissioners will engage in debate with a sense of fair play, integrity and charity, and that they will be so moved by the Spirit of God, as to put aside selfishness, pride or party spirit, in order to glorify Christ in His Church and edify His people; pray that in times of work, worship & fellowship, the bonds of love & unity among our Elders would be strengthened; pray that Pastors who come in discouragement would be heartened & encouraged to be faithful in their labor.

Pray for the Moderator (and his assistants); the Stated Clerk; the Parliamentarians; and the office staff.

Pray for your Elders' faithful participation in the work of the Assembly and pray for the Lord's blessing upon the ministry of the Word in the worship services and in the seminars provided throughout the week.

Pray for a safe journey home for all, for God's favor in blessing that work which is according to His Word, and for His leading to see and correct that which is not.

MONDAY

Committees of Commissioners meet: pray for wisdom as they frame recommendations on all the business coming before the Assembly, as well as review the records of all the Permanent Committees and Agencies from the last year; pray especially for the Overtures Committee, as it must prepare recommendations on 37 of the 49 Overtures before the GA!

TUESDAY

Committees of Commissioners continue if needed.

6:30 pm—Opening worship service. Pray for the Lord's blessing upon the means of grace, particularly the moderator's closing address.

8:10 pm—First business session convenes. Pray for the election of the new moderator: that he would be wise, fair, firm and good-humored in leading the Assembly through the week.

Report of Stated Clerk—pray for Stated Clerk Dr. Bryan Chapell; pray that the continued joining of committee & agency information reports with their committee of commissioner reports will continue to lead to greater efficiency and edification; and prayer that the extension of time docketed for business will be productive.

Report of Cooperative Ministries Committee—pray for the members of the committee as they seek to foster cooperative ministry among GA Committees and Agencies and provide a forum for resolving issues of inter-agency conflict.

Report of Committee on Constitutional Business—pray for the Committee, that they advise accurately and wisely on any disputed questions during the Assembly.

Report of Theological Examining Committee—pray for care & faithfulness in their work of examining GA-nominated officers.

WEDNESDAY

Report of the Ad Interim Committee on Domestic Violence—pray that our Lord would use this 220 page study to edify, enlighten, and challenge the PCA.

Report of Committee on Presbytery Records—give thanks for the committee members who regularly undertake the challenging task of reviewing all presbytery records for Constitutional conformity; pray that the commissioners will consider with care this very important part of the Assembly's oversight responsibility.

Report of Committee on Interchurch Relations—pray for the members of the permanent committee; that the presentations from delegates other denominations will be edifying; and pray especially for a Reformed & Presbyterian unity throughout the world that does not violate the Church's calling to be a pillar and support of the truth.

Report of the Board of Directors of PCA Retirements & Benefits, Inc.—pray for the President, Ed Dunnington, the staff, and the Board of Directors, that they be wise stewards of the various insurance plans they administer, as well as of the investments made on behalf of the PCA; and for the prosperity of the retired ministers and widows relief fund.

Report of Committee on Covenant Theological Seminary—pray for the Seminary, its new President Dr. Thomas C. Gibbs; and for the continued faithfulness of the faculty, the Board of Trustees & the students.

Report of the Committee on Reformed University Fellowship—pray for RE Will Huss, Coordinator; the members of the permanent committee; and for the work of RUF ministers in 176 colleges and universities across the United States.

Report of Committee on Ridge Haven—pray for Wallace Anderson, Executive Director, the board of directors and the new camping season, especially that the children attending would come to know Christ or be further nourished in their faith.

Report of Committee on PCA Foundation—pray for new President RE Timothy W. Townsend; the staff, and the Board of Directors; for the fruitfulness of their fine work in the management & distribution of assets for the cause of Christ; and for faithful stewardship across the PCA.

Report of Standing Judicial Commission—pray for the members of the SJC, that they would have a love for justice in the administration of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ and for the glory of the Lord & the upbuilding of the Body; pray for the Lord's blessing upon the SJC's work in completing the cases pending and in the cases adjudicated this year; that the parties involved will receive the decision of the Court with humility & grace, that there will be repentance where there is sin, understanding where there is hardness of heart, and restoration among brothers and sisters who are divided.

THURSDAY

Report of Committee on Covenant College—pray for the College, its President Dr. J. Derek Halvorson; for the faculty, the Board of Trustees & the students.

Report of Committee on Discipleship Ministries—pray for Coordinator Dr. Stephen Estock, the staff, and the permanent committee; for an increase in contributions toward the Committee's calling; and pray for the work of discipleship across our denomination.

Report of Committee on Mission to the World—give thanks for, and pray on behalf of Coordinator Dr. Lloyd Kim; pray for the staff, and the permanent committee; and pray for our missionaries throughout the world. To that end see: <https://www.mtw.org/pray>

Report of Committee on Mission to North America—pray for new Coordinator TE Irwyn L. Ince, Jr.; for the staff, and the members of the permanent committee; for capable men to plant churches; for church planting, particularly among those from other cultures; for PCA Chaplains; and for wisdom in the creation of new presbyteries.

Report of Committee on Nominations—pray that able and faithful men will be elected; that those elected to office will serve well & that those not elected will not be discouraged; specially pray for those to be elected to the SJC.

Report of Administrative Committee—pray for Dr. Bryan Chapell, the staff, and the permanent committee; pray for good stewardship in the approval of the budgets; pray particularly for committee efforts to increase RE participation at GA.

Report of Overtures Committee—Pending are 28 overtures to amend BCO including: 1 concerning endorsement of chaplains; 2 to change procedures for a Presbytery judicial commission; 1 regarding Presbytery commission membership and quorum; 4 concerning qualifications for church office with respect to sin and sanctification; 1 concerning requirements for ordination with respect to sin and temptation; 1 to disqualify same-sex attracted men from ordination; 1 to allow victim protection provisions; 1 to expand potential witness eligibility; 1 to allow assistant pastors to Complain against a session; 1 to require annual congregation meetings; 1 to change the number required to call a congregation meeting; 2 on pre-trial non-disciplinary suspensions; 1 to require that disciplinary trials be public; 2 with respect to making original jurisdiction requests; 1 to allow appealing a censure in a case without process; 1 regarding confession timing for case without process; 1 regarding counsel for a case without process; 2 concerning the vote required for maintaining censure during an appeal; 1 concerning timing for a complaint; 1 to allow voting age restrictions in congregational meetings; and 1 to change the number of commissioners on the SJC; 4 overtures to amend the RAO including: 1 to clarify who may submit an overture; 1 adding to the administrative responsibilities of the Stated Clerk concerning allegations; 1 to make statistical data digitally accessible; 1 to add an item to the annual nominating report; 6 BCO 34-1 requests for GA to assume original jurisdiction in a Presbytery matter; 3 to further commend and employ the Human Sexuality report; 1 to make a declaration concerning Critical Race Theory; 1 to amend the GA docket concerning orders of the day; 1 to forbid participation in secret groups; 1 to petition the US government to end abortion; 1 statement regarding political violence; and 1 to have the PCA withdraw from the National Associations of Evangelicals.

Adjournment, 10:15 pm—pray that the Assembly achieves this goal!